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THE UTTERANCES OF HOSEA ARRANGED STROPHICALLY.

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IN the following pages an effort is made to present the sermons of the prophet Hosea in a form which will suggest their original strophic structure. Those passages which may not be ascribed to Hosea himself, with the exception of §§ 4, 18, and 19, are printed in foot-notes. For reasons justifying the various modifications and rearrangements of the text here adopted reference may be made to the author's forthcoming commentary on Amos and Hosea in the "International Critical Series." A corresponding strophical arrangement of the Hebrew text, with accompanying textual notes and brief introductory statements on the poetical form of the various sections, may be found in the *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*, Vol. XVI, pp. 1-15; Vol. XX, pp. 85-94; Vol. XXI, pp. 1-21. A similar translation of the text of Amos was published in the *BIBLICAL WORLD*, Vol. XII (1898), pp. 86-89, 179-82, 251-56, 333-38; while Hebrew and English are given on parallel pages in *The Structure of the Text of the Book of Amos* (University of Chicago Press, 1904). The translation adopted here is that contained in the above-mentioned commentary.

§ 1. THE HARLOTRY OF GOMER, THE PROPHET'S WIFE: 1:2-9.¹

(1:2a) In the beginning when Yahweh spoke with Hosea, Yahweh said unto Hosea:

I (2b, c) Go, take to thee a wife of whoredoms,
 And children of whoredoms;
 For the land goes a-whoring
 From after Yahweh.

¹ The superscription of the book (1:1) is a later addition, viz.: "The word of Yahweh to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, son of Joash, king of Israel."

- (3) And he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. (4a) And Yahweh said unto him:
- II (4b, c) Call his name Jezreel;
 For yet a little while,
 And I will avenge the blood of Jezreel
 Upon the house of Jehu,
 And will cause the kingdom of the house of Israel to cease.
- (5) And it shall come to pass in that day,
 That I will break the bow of Israel,
 In the valley of Jezreel.
- (6a) And she conceived again and she bare a daughter; and he said unto him:
- III (6b, c) Call her name, No-pity;
 For I will no longer
 Have pity for the house of Israel,
 That I should at all forgive them.²
- (8) And she weaned No-pity, and conceived, and bare a son. And he said:
- IV (9) Call his name, Not-my-people;
 For ye are not my people,
 And I am not your God.

§ 2. THE PURCHASE OF GOMER AS A SLAVE, AND HER RETENTION "MANY DAYS": 3:1-5.

- I (1) And Yahweh said unto me:
 Once more go love (this) woman,
 Beloved of a paramour, and an adulteress,
 As Yahweh loves the sons of Israel,
 Although they turn to other gods,
 And are lovers of cakes of grapes.
- II (2) And so I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver,
 And a homer of barley and a letheke of barley;
- (3) And I said to her:
 Many days shalt thou sit still for me;
 Thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not have a husband;
 Nor will I be thine.

² Vs. 7, a later insertion, reads: "But I will have pity upon the house of Judah, and will deliver them by Yahweh their God; and I will not deliver them by bow, nor by sword, nor by equipment, nor by horses, nor by horsemen."

- III (4) For it is through many days,
That the sons of Israel shall sit still,
Without king and without prince,
Without sacrifice and without pillar,
Without ephod and teraphim.³

§ 3. ISRAEL'S HARLOTRY AND HER PUNISHMENT THEREFOR: 2:2-5, 8-12,
13, 17 [Hebrew: 2:4-7, 10-14, 15, 19].

- I (2:2a) Strive with your mother, strive.⁴
(2c, d) That she put away her whoredoms from her face,
And her adulteries from between her breasts;
(3) Lest I strip her naked,
And set her as in the day of her birth,
And make her like the wilderness,
And set her like dry land,
And slay her with thirst.⁵
- II (5) For their mother has become a harlot,
She that conceived them has behaved shamefully, for she said:
I will go after my lovers,
Who give me my bread and my water,
My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.
(8) For she has not understood,
That it was I who gave her
The corn and the wine and the oil,
And multiplied her silver and gold.⁶
- III (9) Therefore I will take back again my corn in its time,
And my wine in its season,
And I will rescue my wool and my flax,
Given to cover her nakedness.⁷

³ (5) Afterward the sons of Israel shall return and seek Yahweh their God, and David their king, and they shall tremble before Yahweh and his goodness in the end of the days.

⁴ (2b) For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband.

⁵ (4) And upon her children I will have no mercy, because they are the children of whoredom.

⁶ The Massoretic text adds: which they have used for the Baal.

⁷ (10) And now I will uncover her shame in the presence of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of my hand.

- (12a, b) And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,
Of which she has said: these are my rewards.⁸
- (12d, e) And I will make them a thicket,
And the beasts of the field shall eat them.
- IV (11) And I will also cause to cease all her mirth, her feasts,
Her new moon and her sabbaths and all her festal assemblies;
- (13) And I will visit upon her the days of the Baalim,
In which she made offering to them,
And decked herself with her earrings and her jewels,
And went after her lovers,
And forgot me; it is the oracle of Yahweh.⁹
- (17) And I will remove the names of the Baalim from her mouth,
And they shall no more be mentioned by their names.

§ 4. LATER VOICES DESCRIBING ISRAEL'S RETURN TO YAHWEH: 2:6, 7, 14, 15,
18-23; 1:10—2:1 [Hebrew: 2:8, 9, 16, 17, 20-25, 1-3].

A. *Israel's Return*: 2:6, 7.

- (2:6) Therefore, behold, I am going to hedge up her way with thorns,
And build her a wall, that she may not find her paths;
- (7) And she will pursue her lovers and not overtake them;
And she will seek them and not find them, and will say:
Let me go and return to my former husband,
For it was better with me then, than now.

B. *Israel's Restoration to Favor*: 2:14, 15.

- (2:14) Therefore, behold, I am going to allure her,
And bring her into the wilderness; and I will speak to her heart;
- (15) And I will give to her from there her vineyards,
And the valley of Achor for a door of hope,
And there she shall respond as in the days of her youth,
And as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

C. *Yahweh's Covenant and Betrothal*: 2:18-20.

- (2:18) And I will make for them a covenant in that day,
With the beasts of the field and the fowl of the heavens and the
creeping things of the earth,
And the bow and the sword and war I will break out of the land;

⁸ (12c) Which my lovers have given me.

⁹ (16) And it shall be at that day, it is the oracle of Yahweh, thou shalt call me Ishi, and shalt call me no more Baali.

- (19) And I will make them lie down in safety. Yea, I will betroth thee to me forever,
 Yea, I will betroth thee to me ¹⁰ in kindness and in mercy
 (20) Yea, I will betroth thee to me in faithfulness, and thou shalt know Yahweh.

D. Bounteous Blessings for Israel: 2:21-23.

- I (2:21) And it shall come to pass in that day,
 That I will respond, it is the oracle of Yahweh,
 I will respond to the heavens,
 And they shall respond to the earth.
- II (22) And the earth shall respond to the corn,
 And the wine and the oil;
 And they shall respond to Jezreel.
 (23a) And I will sow her unto me in the land.
- III (23b-d) And I will have pity upon the unpitied one (No-Pity),
 And I will say to Not-my-people: thou art my people;
 And they will say: thou art my God.

E. Great Numbers and New Names: 1:10-2:1.

- I (1:10) And it shall come to pass that the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea,
 Which cannot be measured nor numbered.
 And instead of its being said to them: Ye are "not my people,"
 They shall be called "the sons of the living God."
- II (11) And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together,
 And they shall appoint for themselves one head, and they shall go up out of the land,
 For great shall be the day of Jezreel.
 (2:1) Say ye to your brother, "my people," and to your sister, "compassionated."

§ 5. YAHWEH'S CONTENTION WITH ISRAEL ON ACCOUNT OF SINS ENCOURAGED BY THE PRIESTS: 4:1-19.

- I (4:1) Hear the word of Yahweh,
 O children of Israel;—
 Yahweh has a contention
 With the inhabitants of the land;

¹⁰ The Massoretic text inserts here: "in righteousness and in judgment."

- For there is no truth, nor love,
Nor knowledge of God in the land;
- (2) But swearing and lying and killing and stealing and committing adultery;
They break into (houses), blood striking blood.
- (3) Therefore the land mourns,
And every denizen in it languishes,
Even to the beasts of the field and the fowl of the heavens,
While even the fish of the sea are taken away.
- II (4) Still let none find fault,
And let none reprove,
Since my people are but like their priestlings;
(14e) Yea, a people stupid (and) falling to ruin.
- (5) O priest, thou shalt fall by day,
And the prophet also shall fall with thee,
And by night I will destroy thy mother.
- (6) My people will be destroyed by reason of their lack of knowledge,
Because thou hast rejected knowledge,
I reject thee from being priest to me;
And because thou hast forgotten the law of thy God,
I will forget thy children, even I.
- III (7) According to their number so they sin;
They have exchanged their glory for shame.
- (8) They feed on the sin of my people,
And unto their iniquity they lift up their souls.
- (9) And so it becomes like people, like priest:
And I will visit punishment upon his ways,
And his deeds I will requite to him.
- (10) And they shall eat and not find satisfaction,
And they shall commit adultery and not find satisfaction:
For they have left off heeding Yahweh.
- (12a, b) Yea, my people ask counsel at their wood;
Their staff declares to them the oracle.
- IV (11) Harlotry and new wine take away the brain,
(12c, d) For the spirit of harlotry has led them astray,
And they have played the harlot from under their God.
- (13) Upon the tops of the mountains they sacrifice,
And upon the hills they make offerings,
Under oaks and poplars and terebinths.
Therefore your daughters commit harlotry,
And your spouses commit adultery.

- (14a-d) I will not punish your daughters because they commit harlotry;
 Nor your spouses because they commit adultery;
 For they themselves with harlots go astray,
 And with consecrated harlots they sacrifice.
- V (15) Although thou, O Israel, play the harlot,
 Let Judah not become guilty.
 Come not to Gilgal,
 Nor go up to Beth-aven;
 And swear not, in Beersheba, "By the life of Yahweh."
 (16) Yea, like a stubborn heifer, Israel acts stubbornly.
 Can Yahweh now feed them like a lamb in a broad place?
 (17) Ephraim is wedded to idols; leave him alone.
 (18) A band of toppers! They devote themselves to harlotry.
 Her rulers have fallen in love with shame.
 (19) A wind has enwrapped her in its wings,
 And they shall be ashamed of their altars.

§ 6. THE GUILT OF PRIESTS AND PRINCES: 5:1-14.

- I (5:1) Hear this, O priests,
 And hearken, O house of Israel.
 And, O house of the king, give ear,
 Because for you is the judgment.
 For a snare ye have become at Mizpah,
 And a net spread on Tabor.
 (2) The pit of Shittim they have made deep,
 And there is no correction for any of them.
 (3) I know Ephraim,
 And Israel is not hid from me.
 Yea, thou, O Ephraim, hast played the harlot;
 Israel is defiled.
- II (4) Their doings do not permit them
 To return to their God:
 For the spirit of harlotry is within them,
 And Yahweh they do not know.
 (5) And the pride of Israel shall testify to his face,
 And Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt.
 Judah also shall stumble with them.
 (6) They will go to seek Yahweh¹¹
 And they will not find him — he has withdrawn from them.

¹¹ With their flocks and with their cattle.

- (7) They have dealt faithlessly with Yahweh,
For they have begotten strange children:
The (next) new moon may destroy them with their portions.
- III (8) Blow the trumpet in Gibeah,
The cornet in Ramah;
Cry aloud in Bethel;
Make Benjamin to tremble.
- (9) Ephraim shall become a desolation,
In the day of punishment.
Against Israel's tribes I make known that which is sure.
- (10) The princes of Israel have become
Like landmark removers:
Upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.
- (11) Ephraim practices oppression! He breaks down right!
Because he has determined to go after vanity.
- IV (12) And it is I who am like a moth to Ephraim,
Like rottenness to the house of Israel.
- (13) And so Ephraim saw his sickness,
And Israel his sore;
And Ephraim went to Assyria,
And Israel sent to king Jareb;
But he cannot heal you,
Nor will he relieve you of your wound.
- (14) For I myself will be like a lion to Ephraim,
And like a young lion to the house of Israel.
I, even I, will rend and get me away;
I will carry off and none shall rescue.

§ 7. ISRAEL'S FITFUL REPENTANCE IS INSUFFICIENT TO REMOVE THE GUILT
WHICH IS MANIFEST TO ALL: 5:15—7:7.

- I (5:15) I will return again to my place,
Until they are confounded and seek my face.
In their distress they will seek me.
- (6:1) (Saying) come, let us turn unto Yahweh,
For he has torn that he may heal us,
And he has smitten that he may bind us up.
- (2) He will revive us after two or three days;
He will establish us that we may live before him.
- (3) Yea, let us know, let us be zealous to know Yahweh.
When we seek him, then we shall find him;
And he will come as the winter rain to us,
As the spring rain which waters the earth.

- II (4) What can I make of you, O Ephraim!
 What can I make of you, O Israel!
 Since your love is like a morning-cloud,
 Yea, like the dew which early goes away.
 * * * * *
- (5) Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
 I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
 And my judgment is like the light which goeth forth.
- (6) For it is love that I delight in and not sacrifice;
 Yea, knowledge of God, and not burnt-offerings.
- III (7) But they like men have transgressed the covenant;
 There they have betrayed me.
- (8) Gilead is a city of evil-doers,
 Tracked with bloody foot-prints.
- (9) And as bandits lie in wait for a man,
 The priests hide themselves on the road.
 They murder those going to Shechem, yea, villainy they commit.
- (10) In Bethel I have seen a horrible thing,
 There, Ephraim, thou hast played the harlot;
 Israel is defiled.¹²
- IV (11b) When I would turn the captivity of my people,
 (7:1) When I would heal Israel, [I hold back (?)]
 For the guilt of Ephraim discovers itself
 And the evils of Samaria (appear)—
 How they practice fraud and the thief comes in,
 And bandits roam abroad without!
- (2) They are not steadfast in their heart.
 All their evil I will record;
 Now their deeds have encompassed them,
 They have come to be before me.
- V (3) In their wickedness they anoint kings,
 (4a) And in their treacheries, princes; since they are all adulterers.¹³
- (5) On the day of our king they are become sick,
 The princes, with fever from wine;
 He stretched forth his hand with loose fellows.
- (6) For like an oven their hearts burn with their intriguing.
 All night their anger sleeps;
 In the morning it blazes like a flame of fire;

¹² (11a) Judah for thee also is set a harvest.

¹³ (4b) They are like a burning oven whose baker ceased to stir up the flame, from the kneading of the dough until its leavening.

- (7) All of them glowing like an oven,
They devour their rulers.
All their kings have fallen,
No one among them calling for me.

§ 8. THE CONFUSION OF THE NATION: 7:8—8:3.

- I (7:8) Ephraim—among the nations he lets himself be mixed.
Ephraim—he has become a cake not turned.
(9) Strangers have devoured his strength and he knows it not;
Yea, gray hairs are sprinkled upon him and he knows it not;
(10) And the pride of Israel has witnessed against him,
Yet they do not return unto Yahweh, their God,
And they do not seek him for all this;
(12c) I will chastise them by the abundance of their afflictions.
(11) And so Ephraim has become like a foolish dove without understanding:
To Egypt they cry, to Assyria they go.
(12a, b) As they go I will spread over them my net,
Like birds of the air I will bring them down.
- II (13) Alas for them that they have strayed from me!
Destruction to them that they have rebelled against me!
And shall I redeem them
When they have spoken lies about me?
(14) And they have never cried unto me with their heart;
But they keep howling beside their altars for corn and new wine;
They cut themselves, they rebel against me.
(15) Although it was I who trained and strengthened their arms,
(16) Yet concerning me they keep thinking (only) evil; they turn to
Baal;
They have become like a bow which swerves:
Their princes shall fall by the sword,
Because of the insolence of their tongues, in the land of Egypt.
- III (8:1a) To thy mouth with the trumpet!
For the eagle (comes down) upon the house of Yahweh.¹⁴
(2) To me they will (then) cry,
My God, we know thee, we Israel.
(3) Israel has spurned the good; let the foe pursue him.
- ¹⁴ (1b) Because they have transgressed my covenant
And trespassed against my law.

§ 9. ISRAEL'S KINGS AND IDOLS DISPLEASING AND DESTRUCTIVE: 8:4-14.

- I (8:4) Since they have made kings but not from me,
 And since they have made princes but I knew (them) not.
 With their silver and their gold made by them into idols,¹⁵
 (5b) Mine anger is kindled against them,
 (5a) I loathe thy calf, O Samaria,¹⁶
 (6) For out of Israel is it,
 A smith made it and it is not God;
 Like splinters Samaria's calf shall become.
- II (7) For they sow wind and they reap whirlwind:
 A seed which has no stalk,
 Which yields no grain,
 If perchance it were to yield, strangers would devour it.
 (8a, b) Israel is swallowed up; already are they among the nations.¹⁷
 (9) For they have gone up to Assyria,
 A wild ass taking his way by himself:
 Ephraim gives love gifts.¹⁸
- III (11) For Ephraim has made many altars—
 They are to him altars—for sinning.
 Were I to write for him by myriads my laws,
 As those of a stranger they would be accounted.
 (13) My offerings of . . . they sacrifice flesh and they eat it,
 Yahweh having no delight in them.
 Now must he remember their guilt and visit their sin,
 Since to Egypt they shall return.¹⁹

§ 10. ISRAEL'S EXILE A BREAKING UP OF SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS HABITS: 9:1-9.

- I (9:1) Do not rejoice, O Israel, like the peoples;
 For thou hast played the harlot away from thy God,
 Thou hast loved hire upon every threshing-floor.
 (2) Threshing-floor and wine-vat shall not know them,
 And the new wine shall play them false.
- ¹⁵ That they may be cut off.
- ¹⁶ How long will they be incapable of punishment?
- ¹⁷ (8c) Like a vessel in which there is no pleasure.
- ¹⁸ (10) If they give themselves among the nations, I must now gather them in;
 And they must cease for a while from the anointing of kings and princes.
- ¹⁹ (14) And so Israel forgot his maker and built palaces,
 And Judah multiplied fenced cities;
 And so I will send fire upon his cities;
 And it shall devour his palaces.

- (4) They shall not pour libations to Yahweh,
Nor prepare for him their sacrifices.
Their bread shall be like the bread of mourning;
All who eat it shall defile themselves.
For their bread shall be only for their hunger,
It shall not come into Yahweh's house.
- II (3) They shall not dwell in the land of Yahweh,
And Ephraim shall return to Egypt;
And in Assyria they shall eat what is unclean.
(5) What will ye do on the day of the festival?
Or on the day of feasting to Yahweh?
(6) For behold they will go to Assyria,
Egypt gathering them, Memphis burying them:
Nettles inheriting their precious things of silver:
Thorns coming up in their tents.
- III (7) The days of visitation will come;
The days of recompense will come;
Israel shall know.
(The people say:) "A fool, the prophet;
Mad, the man of spirit."
(Yes;) because of the greatness of thine iniquity and the greatness
of thy sin.
(8) Enmity exists toward Ephraim's watchman;
The prophet (finds) the snares of the fowler in all his ways;
In the (very) house of his God they dig for him a deep pit.²⁰

§ 11. ISRAEL IS CORRUPT; THE LIFE OF OLD AS WELL AS YOUNG LICENTIOUS:

9:10-17.

- I (9:10) Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel;
Like the first fruit on a fig-tree, I saw your fathers;
But they came to Baal-peor and separated themselves to Baal,
And they became abominations like the object of their love.
- II (11) Ephraim—his glory flies away like a bird;
There shall be no more birth, no more motherhood, no more
conception.
(16a, b) Ephraim is smitten, their root withered;
Fruit they cannot produce.
- ²⁰ (9) As in the days of Gibeah
He will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sin.

- III (16c) Yea, though they beget children, I will slay the darlings of their womb.
 (12a, b) Yea, though they bring up their sons, I will bereave them that there be not a man.
 (13) Ephraim—for a prey are his sons destined!
 Yea, Ephraim must lead forth his sons to slaughter.
- IV (14) Give them, O Yahweh: what wilt thou give? ²¹
 A miscarrying womb and dry breasts.
 All their evil being in Gilgal—yea, there I conceived hatred for them.
 For the evil of their doings I will drive them out of my house.
- V (15c) I will no more love them; all their nobles being rebels.
 (12c) Yea, even woe upon them when I look away from them.
 (17) My God will cast them away, for they have not hearkened to him;
 And they shall become wanderers among the nations.

§ 12. ISRAEL IS WICKED IN PROPORTION TO HER PROSPERITY; BUT AN END IS COMING OF ALL THAT SHE HAS FALSELY TRUSTED: 10:1-8.

- I (10:1) A luxuriant vine is Israel,
 He multiplies fruit for himself.
 In proportion to the increase of his fruit he multiplied altars;
 In proportion to the prosperity of his land he made beautiful the pillars.
 (2) Their heart is false;
 Now must they bear punishment for it.
 But he will break the neck of their altars;
 He will ruin their pillars.²²
- II (5) For the calf of Beth-aven,
 The inhabitants of Samaria shall tremble.
 Yea, his people shall mourn for him,
 And his priestlings shall writhe for him.
 (6) Yea, this they will carry to Assyria,
 As a present to king Jareb.
 Ephraim shall take disgrace,
 And Israel shall be ashamed because of his counsel.

²¹ The Massoretic text repeats here: Give them.

²² (3) For soon they will say, we have no king,
 For Yahweh we have not feared,
 And the king, what can he do for us?

(4) Speaking words, swearing false oaths, making covenants,
 And law springs forth like weeds in the furrows of the field.

- III (8a) And the high places of Aven shall be destroyed,
The sin of Israel.
Thorns and thistles shall come up
Upon their altars.
(7) As for Samaria, her king is cut off,
Like a chip on the face of the waters;
(8b) And they shall say to the mountains, cover us,
And to the hills, fall on us.

§ 13. ISRAEL'S HISTORY CONSISTS OF SIN; THE FRUIT OF SUCH SEED IS A SAD
HARVEST — DESOLATION, DESTRUCTION, AND DEATH — EVEN THAT OF
THE KING: 10:9-15.

- I (10:9) From the days of Gibeah is Israel's sin.
At that time there stood against me the sons of unrighteousness.
Shall not war overtake them even in Gibeah? ²³
(11) Ephraim indeed is a heifer loving to thresh,
And even I myself have spared the beauty of her neck;
But now I will make Ephraim draw; Israel must plow;
Jacob must harrow for himself.
- II (12) Sow for yourselves righteousness;
Reap the fruit of love;
Break up your fallow ground;
Since there is time to seek Yahweh,
To the end that the fruit of righteousness may come to you.
(13a) Ye have plowed wickedness, injustice ye have reaped.
Ye have eaten the fruit of lies.
- III (13b) Because thou didst trust in thy chariots in the multitude of thy
mighty ones
(14a) Therefore the tumult (of war) shall arise among thy peoples,
And all thy fortresses shall be ruined.²⁴
(14c) The mother being broken with the children.
(15) Thus will I do to you, O house of Israel;
Because of the evil of your evil,
In the dawn utterly undone shall be the king of Israel.
- ²³ (10) In my wrath I will chastise them;
And peoples shall be gathered against them
To chastise them for their double sin.
- ²⁴ (14b) As Shalman ruined Beth-arbel in the day of war.

§ 14. ISRAEL A CHILD, YAHWEH A FATHER WITH ALL THE LOVE OF A FATHER
EVEN IN THE FACE OF INGRATITUDE AND DESERTION: 11:1-11.

- I (11:1) When Israel was young then I came to love him,
And out of Egypt I called him;
The more I called them,
(2) The farther they went away from me.
They keep sacrificing to the Baalim,
And making offerings to images.
- II (3) Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
Taking them up in my arms;
And they did not know that I healed them.
(4) With the cords of a man I would draw them, with bands of love;
And I was to them as one who lifts up the yoke from upon their jaws,
And I inclined unto him and would give him to eat.
- III (5) He must return to the land of Egypt,
Or Assyria will be his king; for they have refused to return.
And so the sword will whirl in their cities,²⁵
And will devour in their fortresses.
(7) And my people having wearied me with their rebellions,
Unto the yoke (Yahweh) will appoint them,
Since he has ceased to love them.
- IV (8a) How can I give thee up, O Ephraim!
How can I surrender thee, O Israel!
How can I make thee as Admah!
How can I place thee as Zeboim!²⁶
(9b) For God am I and not man,
Holy in the midst of thee and not human.
(10a) Yahweh will roar like a lion.²⁷

²⁵ And will destroy their branches.

²⁶ (8b) My heart is turned upon me,
My compassions grow hot together.

(9a) I will not act according to the fierceness of my anger;
I will not turn to destroy Ephraim.

²⁷ (10b) As a lion he will roar,
Yea he himself will roar,
And there shall come hurriedly . . .

(11) They shall come hurriedly like sparrows from Egypt,
And like doves from the land of Assyria.
And I will bring them back to their houses.
It is the declaration of Yahweh.

§ 15. ISRAEL'S FALSITY AND FAITHLESSNESS FROM THE FIRST, IN SPITE OF EFFORTS THROUGH PROPHETS, MUST BRING RETRIBUTION AND RUIN: 11:12—12:14 (HEBREW: 12:1-15).

- I (11:12a) [12:1a] Ephraim has compassed me with falsehood,
And the house of Israel with deceit.²⁸
- (1) [2] Ephraim herds the wind and hunts the sirocco.
All day long they multiply falsehood and fraud;
They strike bargains with Assyria,
And they carry oil to Egypt.
- (2) [3] Yahweh has a quarrel with Israel,
To punish Jacob according to his ways;
According to his deeds he will requite him—
- (3a) [4a] In the womb he supplanted his brother.²⁹
- II (7) [8] Canaan—in his hand are false balances;
He loves to defraud.
- (8) [9] And does Ephraim say: "Yes, but I have become rich;
I have secured for myself wealth"?
(Let him know) that all his gains are insufficient
For the guilt which he has incurred.
- (9) [10] For I, Yahweh, thy God,
From the land of Egypt,
Will again make thee to dwell in tents,
As in the days of the festal assembly.
- III (10) [11] And I spoke by the prophets;
For it was I who multiplied vision,
And by the hand of the prophets gave parables.³⁰
- ²⁸ (11:12b) [12:1b] And Judah is still known with God,
And with the Holy One is faithful.
- ²⁹ (12:12) [13] And Jacob fled to the field of Aram,
And Israel served for a wife;
Yea for a wife he herded sheep.
- (3b) [4b] In his man's strength he contended with God,
- (4) [5] Yea, he contended with the angel and prevailed.
He wept and besought mercy of him;
At Bethel he met him, and there he spoke with him.
- (5) [6] And Yahweh is God of hosts,
Yahweh is his name
- (6) [7] So thou by the help of thy God shouldst turn back;
Kindness and justice do thou keep,
And wait on thy God without ceasing.
- ³⁰ (13) [14] And by a prophet Yahweh brought Israel up from Egypt,
And by a prophet he was shepherd.

- (14) [15] Ephraim has given bitter provocation
And his bloodshed he will leave upon him.
And his reproach the Lord will return to him.
- (11) [12] In Gilead is iniquity; only vanity they have wrought.
In Gilgal they sacrifice to demons.
So their altars shall be as stone-heaps
Among the furrows of the field.

§ 16. THE UTTER DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL: 13:1-11.

- I 13:1 When Ephraim used to speak, men trembled;
 He was a prince in Israel.
 Then he became guilty through Baal and died.
- (2a, b) And now they continue to sin;
 And they make for themselves molten gods;
 From their silver, idols according to their own model.
 Smiths' work, all of it!
 To such they say, O God!
- II (2c) With a people sacrificing to demons;
 With men kissing calves!
- (3) Therefore they shall be like the morning cloud,
 And like the dew that early passes away;
 Like the chaff which whirleth all over the threshing floor,
 And like smoke from the window.
- III (4) And it was I, Yahweh, thy God,
 Who brought thee up from the land of Egypt,
 And a God beside me thou knowest not,
 Nor has there been a savior except me.
- (5) It was I who shepherded thee in the wilderness,
 In the land of drought.
- (6) But when they fed, they filled themselves full.
 And their heart was lifted up and consequently they forgot
 me.
- IV (7) And so I will be to them like a lion;
 Like a leopard on the way to Assyria.
- (8) I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of its young,
 And will tear the enclosure of their hearts,
 And there will I devour them like a lion,
 While wild beasts tear them.
- (9) I am thy destruction, O Israel!
 Yea, who is thy help?

- (10) Where is thy king now, that he may save thee?
Or all thy princes, that they may rule thee?
Those of whom thou hast said,
Give me kings and princes.
- (11) I give thee kings in my anger,
And I take them away in my wrath.

§ 17. EPHRAIM CONDEMNED TO SHEOL: 13:12—14:1.

- I (13:12) The iniquity of Ephraim is gathered up;
His sin is laid by in store.
- (13) The pangs of childbirth come upon him.
He is an unwise son;
For at this time he should not stand
In the mouth of the womb.
- II (14) Shall I deliver them from the hand of Sheol?
Shall I redeem them from death?
Where are thy plagues, O death?
Where thy destruction, O Sheol?
Repentance is hid from mine eyes.
- III (15) Although he, as does the reed-grass in the midst of the
water, show fruitfulness,
There shall come an east wind, Yahweh's wind,
Coming up from the wilderness;
And his fountain shall dry up, and his spring shall be
parched,
While he will strip the treasure,
Consisting of all precious vessels.
- IV (13:16) [14:1] Samaria shall bear her guilt;
For she has rebelled against her God,
They shall fall by the sword,
Their children shall be dashed in pieces,
And their women with child shall be ripped up.

§ 18. LATER WORDS OF HOPE: 14:1-8 [2-9].

- (14:1) [2] Return, O Israel, unto Yahweh thy God.
For thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity.
- (2) [3a] Take with you words
And return unto Yahweh thy God.

- II (2*b*) [3*b*] Say unto him:
 Do thou wholly remove iniquity and accept that which is
 good;
 So will we pay the fruit of our lips;
 (3*c*) [4*c*] For in thee the orphan finds mercy
- III (3*a*, *b*) [4*a*, *b*] Assyria shall not save us.
 We will not ride upon horses (from Egypt);
 And we will no more say "our God,"
 To the work of our hands.
- IV (4) [5] I will heal their backsliding;
 I will love them freely.
 Now that my anger is turned away from them,
 (5*a*) [6*a*] I will be as the dew unto Israel.
- V (5*b*) [6*b*] He shall blossom as the lily
 And his roots shall sprout like Lebanon.³¹
 (6) [7] And his beauty shall be like the olive tree.
 And his smell like Lebanon.³²
- VI (8) [9] Ephraim, what more has he to do with idols?
 I respond to him and look after him.
 I am like an evergreen cypress;
 From me is thy fruit found.

§ 19. THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED: 14:9 [10].

- (14:9) [10] Whoso is wise, let him discern these things;
 Prudent, then let him know them.
 For Yahweh's ways are straight,
 The righteous walking in them,
 But sinners stumbling by them.

³¹ And his saplings shall spread.

³² (7) [8] They shall return and dwell in his shadow,
 And they shall live well watered like a garden;
 And they shall sprout like the vine;
 Their renown like the wine of Lebanon.